

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 46 and 58 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 42, 49, 50, 55 and 61 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18, 42-45, 47-57, and 59-64 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-18, 42-45, 47-57, and 59-64 are deemed patentable due at least to the reasons similar to the allowability of the claims as set forth in the Notice of Allowance mailed August 18, 2003.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

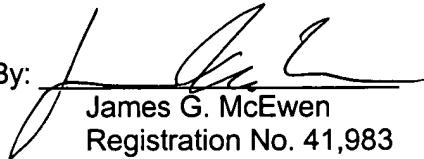
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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